

In Dermatology

Lyell's syndrome—dermatological emergency:

- **Causes:** Drugs—antibiotics, barbiturates, hydantoin, phenylbutazone, sulfonamides, sulfones, gold salts { Other causes: Infections, vaccinations, leukemia, lymphoma, graft-versus-host reaction, idiopathic
- **Clinical feature:** Prodrome with morbilliform or erythema multiforme-like rash { Pain, pruritus, paresthesia, bulla, marked tenderness of skin { Positive Nikolsky sign, epidermal sloughing, shedding of nail { Acute renal failure, respiratory symptom, GIT complication { Mucous membranes-severe involvement (see picture below)
- **Investigation:** Rule out infection as precipitating cause
- Treatment as thermal burn patient, with intensive care {Use of corticosteroids-controversial (may arrest progression if given in the first 24–48 hours) Avoid re-exposure to offending allied group of drugs.



Full-blown case of toxic epidermal necrolysis shows positive Nikolsky sign over apparently normal skin

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